

Customer No. 24498  
Attorney Docket No. PU020105  
Final Office Action Date: September 4, 2009

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**Remarks/Arguments**

Claims 1-24 are pending in this application, and are rejected in the final Office Action of September 4, 2009. No claim amendments are presented herein. However, a listing of the pending claims in this application accompanies this response for the Examiner's convenience.

**Re: Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21 and 23**

Claims 1-12, 14-19, 21 and 23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,959,659 issued to Dokic (hereinafter, "Dokic"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the following reasons.

At the outset, Applicants again note that the present invention addresses and solves the problem that in a digital television system, in order to perform a channel change, the receiver must first wait to receive program specific information that is received via the incoming data stream before programming associated with a newly selected channel can be decoded and displayed. The program specific information must be extracted, and elements of the receiver must be configured based on this information in order to receive desired channel and begin decoding. The program specific information may include for example, program association table data, and program map table data (see page 1, line 31 to page 2, line 8; page 5, lines 24 to 28 of Applicants' specification). Additionally, the incoming data stream also includes decoder synchronization data (e.g., sequence headers) that must be acquired before decoding can begin (see page 6, lines 12 to 13 of Applicants' specification). The delay in acquiring the necessary program specific information and decoder synchronization data may cause a delay in changing from one channel to another.

The present invention addresses and solves this problem by providing for the initiation of a data caching operation in response to a channel change event. The caching operation enables incoming decoder synchronization data (e.g., sequence header data) to be cached so that it may be found quickly after the program association table data and program map table data is captured and processed (see page 6, lines 26-32 of Applicants' specification). Thus, a notable aspect of the claimed invention is

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that the aforementioned caching operation is initiated in response to receiving a channel change command.

In that regard, independent claim 1 recites:

“receiving a channel change command;  
initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command, the cached data stream including decoder synchronization data;  
finding program specific information included within the incoming data stream;  
transferring the cached data stream for decoding in response to the program specific information; and  
finding the decoder synchronization data within the cached data stream.” (emphasis added)

Independent claims 7, 14, 21 and 23 recite features similar to claim 1 above. Applicants submit that Dokic fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed feature of initiating caching of an incoming data stream in response to a channel change command, as provided by independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21 and 23 .

On page 2 of the final Office Action dated September 4, 2009, the Examiner addresses independent claims 1, 7 and 14 by alleging that the claimed feature of “initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command” is disclosed on column 4, lines 54-60 of Dokic, which states:

“Because the analysis performed by the digital signal processor occurs in a period less than it takes to receive a transport packet, the selected program acquisition may begin with the transport packet immediately following the program map table. The time between selection of a program and display of the program to a viewer is therefore minimized.”

As indicated above, the foregoing cited passage Dokic refers to “analysis performed by the digital signal processor”, but in no way discloses or suggests, *inter alia*, the claimed feature of “initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command”, as recited

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for example by independent claim 1 (and similarly recited by independent claims 7 and 14).

Later, on page 4 of the final Office Action dated September 4, 2009, the Examiner addresses independent claims 21 and 23 by alleging that the claimed feature of "initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command" is disclosed on column 2, lines 8-21 of Dokic, which states:

"In order to acquire a given program within the transport stream, an MPEG-2 decoder must first interpret program specific information (PSI) that is contained within the stream. The PSI includes both normative data and private data that enables the programs to be demultiplexed. The MPEG-2 standard requires the PSI data to be divided into four table structures in the transport stream: (1) a program association table (PAT); (2) a program map table (PMT); (3) a network information table; and (4) a conditional access table. For purposes of the present application, the program association table and the program map table are the two PSI tables of interest. The program association table is identified in the MPEG transport stream by a PID of 0x0000."

As indicated above, the foregoing cited passage Dokic refers to the acquisition of "a given program within the transport stream" and describes certain characteristics of "program specific information (PSI) that is contained within the stream", but in no way discloses or suggests, *inter alia*, the claimed feature of "initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command", as recited for example by independent claim 21 (and similarly recited by independent claim 23).

The failure of Dokic to disclose, *inter alia*, the claimed feature of "initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command" is not surprising given that the reference teaches a completely different technique for processing an incoming data stream than the claimed invention. In particular, one of the notable features of Dokic is the ability of a digital signal processor (i.e., element 102 in FIG. 3) to demultiplex a default program

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from a transport stream prior to receiving any channel selection command/instruction.

This feature of Dokic is described on column 4, lines 28-40, for example, which states:

**"Prior to receiving commands from the host microprocessor, the digital signal processor can begin to demultiplex a default program contained within the MPEG-2 transport stream. In an environment where only a single program is carried within the transport stream, the disclosed construction is therefore advantageous in that it automatically acquires the program prior to instruction from the host microprocessor."**

**The host microprocessor within the MPEG-2 decoder runs the operating system of the decoder, generates a user interface, and *allows the user to select from a number of different programs within the transport stream.*" (emphasis added)**

As indicated above, Dokic discloses a configuration in which a digital signal processor (i.e., element 102 in FIG. 3) demultiplexes a default program from an MPEG-2 transport stream prior to receiving a channel selection command/instruction from a host processor (i.e., element 106 in FIG. 3). That is, Dokic seeks to achieve rapid program acquisition by obtaining a default program from the transport stream before any channel selection or channel change command is received. In this manner, Dokic teaches a completely different technique for processing an incoming data stream than the claimed invention, and thereby clearly fails to disclose or suggest, *inter alia*, the claimed feature of "initiating caching of an incoming data stream associated with a newly selected channel in response to the channel change command", as recited for example by independent claim 1 (and similarly recited by independent claims 7, 14, 21 and 23).

Accordingly, given that Dokic fails to disclose or suggest at least one notable feature of independent claims 1, 7, 14, 21 and 23, Applicants submit that such claims and their respective dependent claims are patentable over Dokic, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

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**Re: Claims 13, 20, 22 and 24**

Claims 13, 20, 22 and 24 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Dokic in view of U.S. Patent Publication No. 2002/0196939 by Unger et al. (hereinafter, "Unger"). Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection for at least the same reasons pointed out above in connection with independent claims 7, 14, 21 and 23 (from which claims 13, 20, 22 and 24 respectively depend) since Unger is unable to remedy the deficiencies of Dokic. Accordingly, Applicants submit that claims 13, 20, 22 and 24 are patentable over the proposed combination of Dokic and Unger, and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

**Conclusion**

In view of the foregoing remarks/arguments, the Applicants believe this application stands in condition for allowance. Accordingly, reconsideration and allowance are respectfully solicited. If, however, the Examiner is of the opinion that such action cannot be taken, the Examiner is invited to contact the Applicants' attorney at (609) 734-6815, so that a mutually convenient date and time for a telephonic interview may be scheduled. No fee is believed due from this response. However, if a fee is due, please charge the fee to Deposit Account 07-0832.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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